<u>Amendments to the Claims</u>:

Please amend Claims 1 and 10 to read, as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A cleaning method for cleaning a developer container, comprising:

a blowing step of blowing air through an opening formed in said developer container at a first flow rate; and

a sucking step of sucking air from the developer container at a second flow rate, which is larger than the first flow rate, <u>thereby sucking</u> ~~to suck~~ developer <u>from</u> [[in]] the developer container,

wherein said blowing step and said sucking step are concurrently carried out through an opening formed in the developer container, while ambient air is flowing into the developer container through an ambient air inlet.

2. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein the ambient air inlet is disposed at a position opposite from the opening with respect to a longitudinal direction of the developer container.

3. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 1, further comprising an inserting step of inserting an air nozzle of the blowing device into the developer container through the opening.

4. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 3, wherein in said blowing step air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the air nozzle at different positions with respect to a circumferential direction of the air nozzle.

5. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 3, wherein in said inserting step, first and second air nozzles are inserted into the developer container through the opening, and in said blowing step air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports of the first air nozzle in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the first air nozzle at different positions with respect to a circumferential direction of the first air nozzle, and air is blown through an air blowing port provided at a longitudinal end of the second air nozzle in a longitudinal direction of the second air nozzle.

6. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 5, wherein a blowing rate of the first air nozzle is larger than a blowing rate of the second air nozzle.

7. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said blowing step and suction step are carried out concurrently while the developer container is rotated.

8. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said blowing step and said sucking step are carried out concurrently while reciprocating the developer container in a longitudinal direction thereof.

9. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said blowing step starts after starting said sucking step.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A recycling method for recycling a developer container, comprising:

a removing step of removing first and second used sealing members sealing first and second openings, respectively, provided in the developer container;

a blowing step of blowing air into the developing container at a first flow rate;

a sucking step of sucking air from the developer container at a second flow rate, which is larger than the first flow rate, thereby sucking ~~to suck~~ developer from the developer container to clean the developer container,

a filling step of filling the developer container with developer; and

a mounting step of mounting first and second new sealing members to seal the first and second openings, ~~openings~~

wherein said blowing step and said sucking step are concurrently carried out through a first opening, while ambient air is flowing into the developer container through a second opening.

11. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 10, wherein the second opening is disposed at a position opposite from the first opening with respect to a longitudinal direction of the developer container.

12. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 10, further comprising an inserting step of inserting an air nozzle of the blowing device into the developer container through the first opening.

13. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 12, wherein in said blowing step air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the air nozzle at different positions with respect to a circumferential direction of the air nozzle.

14. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 12, wherein in said inserting step, first and second air nozzles are inserted into the developer container through the first opening, and in said blowing step air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports of the first air nozzle in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the first air nozzle at different positions with respect to a circumferential direction of the first air nozzle, and air is blown through an air blowing port provided at a longitudinal end of the second air nozzle in a longitudinal direction of the second air nozzle.

15. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 14, wherein a blowing rate of the first air nozzle is larger than a blowing rate of the second air nozzle.

16. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 10, wherein said blowing step and sucking step are carried out concurrently while the developer container is rotated.

17. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 10, wherein said blowing step and said sucking step are carried out concurrently while reciprocating the developer container in a longitudinal direction thereof.

18. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 10, wherein said blowing step starts after starting said sucking step.

19. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of setting a blowing device to be used in said blowing step and a sucking device to be used in said sucking step, in the opening.

20. **(Previously Presented)** A method according to Claim 10, further comprising a step of setting a blowing device to be used in said blowing step and a sucking device to be used in said sucking step, in the opening.